

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated November 29, 2005, claims 1, 5 – 6, 8 – 12, 15 – 17, 19 – 24, 26, 30 – 33, 35, 39, 40 and 41 were rejected. Claims 2 – 4, 7, 13, 14, 18, 25, 27 – 29, 34, and 36 – 38 were objected to. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 12, 15, 23, 29, 32, and 38 and added new claims 42 – 45. Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the amendment, additions, and remarks set forth fully below.

### I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 2 – 4, 7, 13, 14, 18, 25, 27 – 29, 34, and 36 – 38 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant proposes amending some existing claims and adding new claims as indicated below. The amendments and additions do nothing but combine claims that include objected to subject matter. Applicant asserts that these amendments should be entered in order to put the claims in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 = claims 1 + 3: Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 3. Claim 3 has been canceled. In view of the amendment, Applicant asserts that claim 1 is in an allowable condition.

Claims 2 and 4 – 11 depend from claim 1. Applicants assert that these claims are allowable based on an allowable claim 1.

Claim 12 = claims 12 + 14: Applicant has amended claim 12 to include the subject matter of claim 14. Claim 14 has been canceled. In view of the amendment, Applicant asserts that claim 1 is in an allowable condition.

Claims 13 and 15 – 22 depend from claim 12. Applicants assert that these claims are allowable based on an allowable claim 12.

Claim 23 = claims 23 + 28: Applicant has amended claim 23 to include the subject matter of claim 28. Claim 28 has been canceled. In view of the amendment, Applicant asserts that claim 23 is in an allowable condition.

Claims 24 – 27 and 29 – 31 depend from claim 23. Applicants assert that these claims are allowable based on an allowable claim 23.

Claim 32 = claims 32 + 37: Applicant has amended claim 32 to include the subject matter of claim 37. Claim 37 has been canceled. In view of the amendment, Applicant asserts that claim 32 is in an allowable condition.

Claims 33 – 36 and 38 – 41 depend from claim 32. Applicants assert that these claims are allowable based on an allowable claim 32.

New Independent Claim 42 = claims 1 + 2: New claim 42 includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 2, as filed. Because the subject matter of claim 2 was objected to in the Final action, Applicant asserts that the new claim 42 is in an allowable condition.

New Independent Claim 43 = claims 12 + 13: New claim 43 includes the subject matter of claims 12 and 13, as filed. Because the subject matter of claim 13 was objected to in the Final action, Applicant asserts that the new claim 43 is in an allowable condition.

New Independent Claim 44 = claims 23 + 25: New claim 44 includes the subject matter of claims 23 and 25, as filed. Because the subject matter of claim 25 was objected to in the Final action, Applicant asserts that the new claim 44 is in an allowable condition.

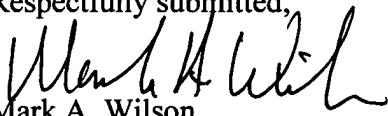
New Independent Claim 45 = claims 32 + 34: New claim 45 includes the subject matter of claims 32 and 34, as filed. Because the subject matter of claim 34 was objected to in the Final action, Applicant asserts that the new claim 45 is in an allowable condition.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-3444** pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-3444** under 37 CFR 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the foregoing remarks. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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